of the Hindustan Diamond Company Limited in February, 1978 and his terms of employment have been extended on three occasions.

Diamond Park at Sachin

992. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Diamond Park coming up at Sachin was originally started as a Cooperative Society;

(b) whether it has been taken over by the new Corporation without convening the necessary General Body meeting of the Society and without passing the necessary resolutions;

(c) what are the names of the promoters of the new Corporation which has emerged as builder and procurer of machinery for the units coming up; and

(d) what are the names of the persons receiving the commission offered by the foreign suppliers of machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Diamond and Gem Development Corporation (DGDC) incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 has reported that it took over the assets and liabilities of the Park from the Diamond Development Co-operative Society Ltd. with effect from 1-3-1988 with the approval of and resolution by the General Body of the Society.

(c) The names of the promoters of the Diamond and Gem Development Corporation (DGDC) are:

S/Shri

1. Sharma Nand Sharma
2. Sumaithangi Gopalam Srinivasan
3. Indu Gopal Jhingaran, IAS
4. Chandrakant Kahandas Thanawala
5. Krishnapuram Gopal Krishnan Ramanathan, IAS
6. Purshotam Jivraj Asoderia
7. Krishna Kumar Sharma.

(d) It is reported by DGDC that only one item, an electronic weighing machine, is imported and that the Diamond Processing Corporation Bombay, which is the agent of the foreign supplier gets the commission.

Seminar on Gem and Jewellery export

993. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gemmological Institute of India and the Forum of Indian Gemmologists had planned a seminar in Bombay on February 11, 1989 to discuss how productivity can be improved and costs can be reduced to boost exports;

(b) whether the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat which is financed directly and indirectly by the Central Government sabotaged this seminar by issuing threatening letters to Prof. G. G. Ray who was to be the main speaker; and

(c) what action Government have taken against those responsible for thwarting such export oriented seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Diamond Institute, Surat has denied the allegation.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Shellac

994. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the export potential of Shellac (Lac) seeds and flakes; if so, the steps taken to promote the trade especially its export;

(b) what is the total annual production and domestic consumption of Shellac and whether value added articles manufactured from Shellac are being exported; if so, the value of exports; and

(c) which are the countries which have shown interest in the import of Shellac from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Indian shellac has only a reasonable export potential. The steps taken by Government to promote export of shellac include withdrawal of restrictions on export of seedlac, kirilac, molammalac etc, doing away with minimum export price stipulation grant of CCS @ 5 per cent on FOB value on export of dewaxed, decolourised shellac and REP @10 per cent on FOB value on export of shellac.

(b) and (c) The average annual sticklac production over the last six years was 15445 M. tons which yielded 7700 M. tons of exportable grades of lac. The domestic consumption was around 2000 M tons per annum. Export of shellac during 1988-89 has been placed at about Rs. 19 crores (provisional). Out of this the high grades of lac such as Aleuric Acid, Bleached Lac, Dewaxed|decolourised Shellac etc. accounted for Rs. 1.40 crores. The main countries importing Indian Shellac are USA, Federal Republic of Germany, U.K., USSR, Indonesia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Right to bring personal computer for professional use from abroad by Indian University Academics

995. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian University Academic returning after a short visit abroad in connection with professional work can bring a personal computer for professional use as accompanied|unaccompanied baggage, if yes, what is the value so allowed, what is the normal rate of duty, manner of assessment of value and terms for availing concessional rate of duty and procedure thereof;

(b) whether an Indian University academic can import a personal computer for his professional use, if yes, what is the procedure for customs clearance, import duty assessment and getting customs clearance permit|import licence and rate and terms of application of concessional rate of import duty; and

(c) whether the Government would *suo moto* consider application of zero/nominal rates of import duty to encourage such imports by academics to accelerate the pace of computer literacy in Indian universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) An Indian University academic returning after a short visit abroad is allowed to bring personal computer for professional use as accompanied|unaccompanied baggage. The value of the computer is determined in accordance with the provisions contained in section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 read with Customs Valuation (Determination of Prices of Imported Goods) Rules, 1988.

In terms of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 58/83-Customs dated 1.3.83, as amended, and 104|89-Customs dated 1.3.89, the rate of duty on computers imported as accompanied|unaccompanied baggage, is chargeable as under:—

For accompanied baggage :

(i) On the amount of the free allowance permissible under baggage rules (if not utilised)	Nil.
(ii) For the next Rs. 2,000/-	175% ad-valorem
(iii) On the balance	245% ad-valorem
On unaccompanied baggage	245% ad-valorem